

As he himself subsequently stated, among the works which most impressed him, there was particularly one by a now almost forgotten scientist, Dr. Prosper Lucas,¹ the brother of Charles Lucas, the eminent pioneer in criminology.

At the end of 1868 Zola drew up a scheme of his proposed "family history," even then preparing the original genealogical tree of the Eougon-Macquarts such as he conceived it.² He set down also the terms on which he would write the series, which at this date he proposed to limit to twelve volumes. And he carried everything to his publisher, M. Lacroix, who, while regarding the offer favourably, would not bind himself at the outset for more than the first four volumes. An agreement in that sense was signed in the spring of 1869; it being stipulated that Zola was to write two volumes each year and to receive five hundred francs a month from Lacroix, not in actual payment for his work but as an advance. The stories were to be sold in the first instance to newspapers for serial issue, and with the proceeds of those sales the publisher was to be refunded his advances, wholly or in part. On the subsequent publication in book form (each volume being priced at three francs³) the author was to receive a royalty of forty centimes (or about thirteen

per cent) on every copy sold. But if the publisher's advances had not been fully repaid with the newspaper money

¹ "Traite philosophique et physiologique de l'Heredité Staturale dans les Etats de sante" et de maladie du Systeme Nerveux," Paris, 1847-1850, 2 vols. 8vo.

² This tree was subsequently inserted at the beginning of "Une Page d'Amour," 1878 *et seq.* The leaves bear the names of twenty-six characters, But the series expanded, and with its last volume, "Le Docteur Pascal," 1893, a new genealogical tree was issued giving six more names.

⁸ That was then the usual price of a French novel. The rise to 3 francs 50 centimes took place after the War of 1870.